



ALUMNI and FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

www.stmark-school.org | 410.744.6560



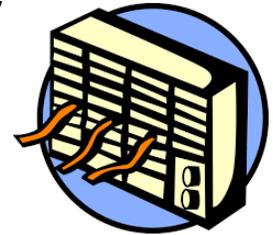
Air Conditioning Installed at St. Mark!



Before!

The faculty, staff and students of St. Mark are pleased to announce the arrival of a long sought after amenity—the installation of classroom air conditioning units! After a very warm and humid beginning of the school year in which we closed school early some days due to the heat index, we are very grateful to soon be able to enjoy the cool comfort of air conditioned rooms. We have limited air conditioning throughout the school located in both computer labs, the library, nurse's office and cafeteria. The new project will involve outfitting 80% of the second floor of the school building with cooling units as part of phase one of the process. Phase two will require the upgrade of the electrical capacity to support the air conditioning. The remaining 20% of the second floor will be part of phase three. The first floor units are being installed on a room by room basis as part of the last phase. At the current time, all of the work is proceeding on schedule. For the first time in many years, the 2017-2018 school year will begin after the Labor Day holiday. It is expected that the air conditioning units will be fully functional in the entire school by the Sept. 5th start date.

Thank you for your support and donations to help keep our school and facilities maintained and climate controlled to provide an optimal learning environment.



After!

A Full Time Preschool 4 program is coming!

The Preschool Program at St. Mark's has been in operation for 14 years now and we are making positive changes to offer more to our youngest students. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, we will have a Monday to Friday full time prek4 program taking place in the school building. If parents so opt, they may choose a Monday to Friday half day option for their child. Aftercare will be available for students in the full day program who need the extended day program.

We are very excited to extend this program to allow students to take part in art, music, Spanish, library and physical education special classes. The day will also include lunch, recess and a short rest period. Our four year old friends will also participate with the school in all prayer services with class buddies. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the school at 410-744-6560 x2 to register.

Student makes Mission Trip to Costa Rica

Andrew joined a team of 26 youth and adults (ages 13-78) on a trip of service and community outreach in the Quesada region of central Costa Rica. The trip is through the United Methodist Volunteers-In-Mission program and the Catonsville United Methodist Church. This year the trip included members of several Catholic and Methodist churches. Many area high school and middle school students have benefited from this trip over the past 15 years. During his week there, he also assisted in providing Bible School classes for children and English language



practice to college age students. Other duties included manual labor to perform repairs to facilities vital to the residents. Andrew worked to earn the money needed to pay for his trip. He agrees that it was well worth it!

Celebrating 50 years in Catholic Education!
A Milestone Anniversary for St. Mark Teacher
Mr. William “Bill” Jauquet!



From His humble beginnings in a rural lumber town in northern Wisconsin, Mr. William “Bill” Jauquet knew he wanted to be a teacher. It wasn’t that the experience of attending school in a two room school influenced him, but he has held a lifelong love of raising children. The father of 3 girls , 2 boys and 22 grandchildren has certainly experienced his share of child-rearing. However, he possesses a heartfelt joy in teaching and also sharing his passion of the love of Christ to the next generation. He finds a special pleasure in educating teenagers, whom he finds filled with life and curiosity.

His teaching career began at St. Vincent Pallotti High School for a two year stint. Then he moved onto to Cardinal Gibbons High School where he enjoyed 34 years working with and forming young men. From there he went to the Baltimore City College before coming to St. Mark School where he has flourished for 14 years. Throughout his teaching career he has taught Social Studies , English, Language Arts, Composition and Religion. If he had to choose a favorite subject to teach, it would be Literature and Vocabulary. Over the years he has witnessed how the use of technology has changed education and children are much more inclined to be visual learners than before.

In addition to his teaching duties, Bill serves as a deacon for his home parish of Our Lady of Victory and is a major presence and faith filled influence at school prayer services and Masses. Bill became a deacon twenty years ago at the suggestion of his wife, Pat. Pat passed away unexpectedly in February 2016, but Bill honors her presence and their 46 years of marriage with his devotion to the faith that they shared. It was a seven year journey to become named a deacon and he holds a deep trove of religious knowledge that is a treasured blessing to our school community.

He has transitioned to a part-time position in recent years and now has the time available to enjoy his hobbies of gardening and reading with particular attention to history, current affairs and religious topics.

As he looks back on his long vocation, he reminisces that a principle reason for his teaching was “to make all things new in Christ” particularly with our young people so that they can grow up and be faithful disciples as well.

Thank you Mr. Jauquet for all the knowledge and experiences you have shared with countless students for the past 50 years! We are blessed by your wisdom and faith.

Double Lunch Ministry

Wednesdays are special days at St. Mark, not just because the week is half over and the weekend looms ahead with its promises of sports games and fun, but because it is Double Lunch Ministry day. Students are encouraged to bring an extra brown bag lunch for the homeless. The Parent Home and School Association promotes this project and provides volunteer support. One of the faithful parent volunteers, and also a St. Mark alum, Tom Booth, packs them into the back of his car and delivers them to the Southwest Emergency Shelter. Grateful clients receive the brightly decorated lunch bags and are touched by the children’s efforts and feel warmed by the care and concern of the children of St. Mark School. We are very proud of our student’s commitment to this outreach and the thought that goes behind the careful packing of the lunch, treat and drink. Many times, students provide a simple prayer card to accompany the nourishing food. On a weekly basis, we can expect to receive an average of 150 lunches. During the season of Lent, the amount of lunches has increased as students have added the Double Lunch Ministry to their personal and class Lenten giving projects. Teachers participate also by meeting before classes begin on Wednesday mornings to make lunches to donate. Together we “Learn and Bring Christ to the World.”

Teachers making lunches!



Jack, Noah and Jackson loading lunches in the car!





March 2017

Dear Friends of St. Mark School,

Each New Year ushers in the chance to reflect on our accomplishments, set new goals and give thanks for the many people who selflessly contribute to our success. Because parochial schools rely on the support of all Catholics to continue providing a quality, Christ-centered curriculum, this can be a humbling exercise for Catholic educators. Your generous gifts to the Spirit of St. Mark annual campaign and the church offertory collections for St. Mark School have been so meaningful and send such a powerful message: you share our vision to Learn and Bring Christ to the World. We are most thankful!

To keep you updated on how your gifts benefit our students and faculty, we are excited to share our plans. In order for St. Mark School to remain academically competitive, we must focus on today's learner and equip our students with the skills needed to be successful in the 21st century, namely, teamwork, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. In anticipation of implementing newly-written Archdiocesan science and technology programs, we are currently upgrading our technology infrastructure, which will allow for the purchase of additional electronic learning devices. We have also begun to plan for the inclusion of supplemental STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) activities in lesson plans, which necessitates the purchase of classroom supplies to support these efforts. Of course, providing our teachers with training and updated resources is essential to ensuring a smooth transition to the new curriculum. This may seem like a daunting list; however, because you have confirmed your commitment to Catholic education through your faithful stewardship to the Spirit of St. Mark annual campaign and the special offertory collections, we are confident that, together, we will overcome these challenges with great success.

Again, we are most grateful for your gifts to the Spirit of St. Mark annual campaign and the church offertory collections. As you know, tuition payments alone no longer allow us to remain academically competitive, which, in turn, lessens our ability to proclaim Christ. Please prayerfully consider continuing your support so that we can continue providing an academically challenging education in a welcoming, nurturing environment for many more generations to come.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephanie Rattell

Stephanie Rattell
Acting Principal

P.S. Your sacrificial gifts to the Spirit of St. Mark annual campaign and the special church collections allow us to offer a 21st century education while witnessing our motto, Learn and Bring Christ to the World. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education!



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**The newsletter for
Families, Alumni,
Grandparents and
Friends of St. Mark
School!**

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Pictured are our Grade 8 students who have been students at St. Mark since the prek3 program! They have been educated for 11 years at St. Mark! We are proud of their accomplishments over the years and wish them well in high school!

The Robotics Club has achieved great success this year in their FIRST Tech Challenge Team Robotics competitions. At the U.S. Naval Academy event they placed 5th in the qualifying rounds out of 35 predominately high school teams and qualified for the state championships! The team members are 7th and 8th grade students who designed and built the model they call "El Jefe" (the Boss)!



Dates to Remember !

April 10 -Living Stations of the Cross
2:00 pm church

April 27-Feast of St. Mark School Mass
1:45 pm Church

April 28-Career Day

April 28 & April 29-School Play
Peter Pan, Jr. Tickets required.

May 11-Crowning of Mary School Mass
10:00 am

May 12-Mother's Day Plant Sale

If you have any news of your own to share, please contact Mary Morrison at **410-744-6560** or email **mmorrison1@stmark-school.org**. Look for our next alumni newsletter coming out soon with more news about all that is new and wonderful at St. Mark!

Thank you for your prayers and support !